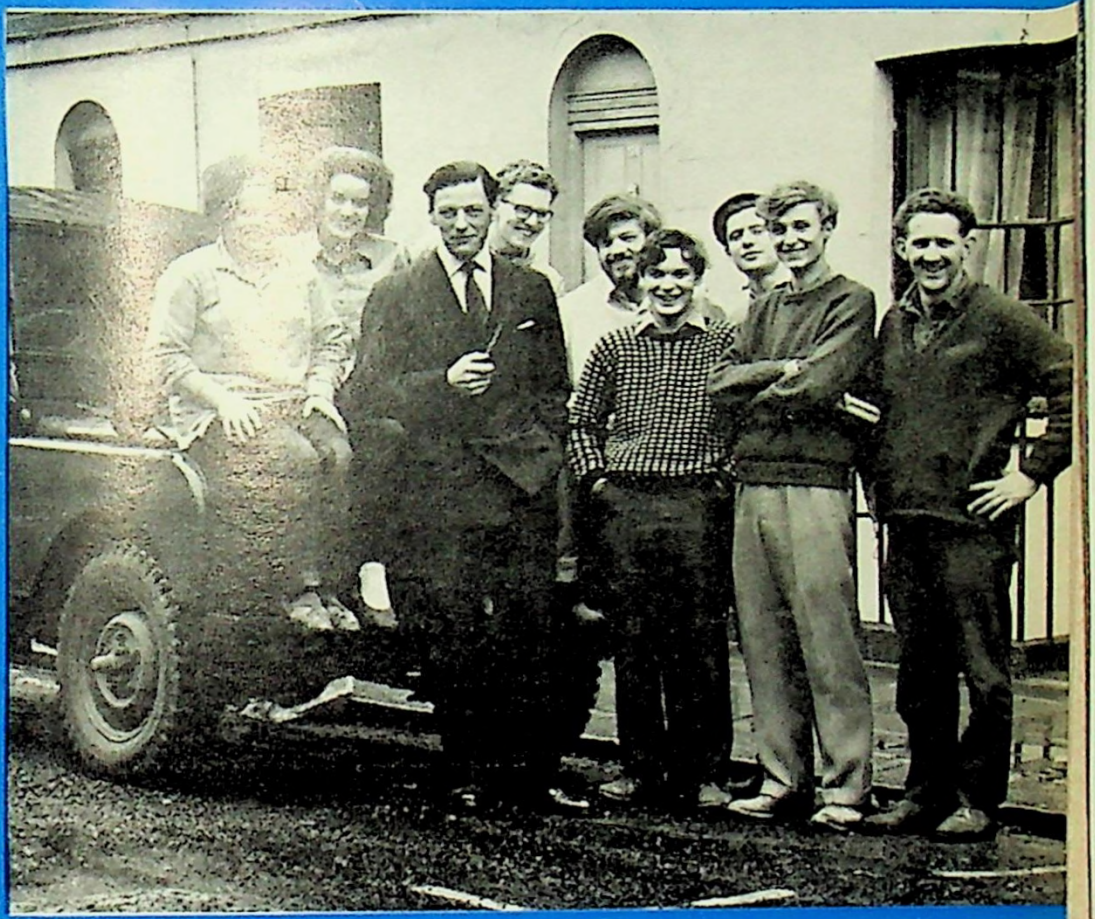
MAY 1964

TOC H JOURNAL



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT 15 TRINITY SQUARE, LONDON, EC3

NINEPENCE

BARCLAY BARON, O.B.E.

We deeply regret to report the death of 'BARKIS', first Editor of the TOC H JOURNAL and one of the foremost architects of Toc H. A tribute will appear in the June issue.

Christian Aid Week

Frank Field's work with the Bengal Refugee Service (see p. 152) is supported by the British Inter-Church Aid Committee. £10,000 has already been sent. The job must be completed.

Help is needed by the Churches during

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

May 25—31

Is your Branch lending a hand?

Langdale Week

There are still a few vacancies for this year's climbing and walking party at Langdale Estate, June 20–27. The cost is £5. 7s. 6d. For full details see March JOURNAL. Applications to Bob Foxcroft, 106 Gawsworth Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Advertisers

Manufacturers of a wide range of articles of interest to our readers will find the JOURNAL pages helpful in making their goods and services known. Enquiries about space and charges will be welcomed by Stan Waters, who handles our advertising, at Messrs. Arthur H. Wheeler & Co., St. Stephen's House, Victoria Embankment, London, S.W.1.

Ourselves

The TOC H JOURNAL is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year.

N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen.

MAY 1964

FORTY-SECOND YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view and are not necessarily those of the Movement

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COVER PICTURE: The Hon. Angus Ogilvy, Toc H Vice-Patron, calls in to see the "Mobile Action" team redecorating an old lady's flat in Paddington (see article on page 140).

Photograph by Douglas Coates

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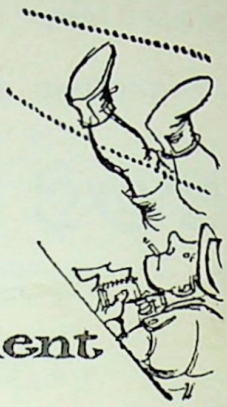
IN AND OUT

-notes & comment



A RECENT British Medical Association report sounds a note of serious alarm at the ever-growing incidence of venereal disease amongst young people and gives little hope of a reverse trend.

Social Evil

The chief contributory causes mentioned in the report include the general decline of moral standards: the harmful influence of pornography; lack of parental guidance; the bad example of adults and the basic insecurity of living in an H-Bomb world. If the rising tide of illegitimacy and disease, with all their attendant miseries, is to be stemmed it means that responsible people, which should include all members of Toc H, must strive against it by thought, word and example. We cannot contract out and leave the field to those who, for their own selfish interests, would like to make Britain a land fit for Eros to live in. (*Venereal Disease and Young People*, B.M.A., 5s. 6d.)

ANOTHER BOOK, but of a very different kind, has already received exceptional praise in advance of publication. This is Francis Chichester's, *The Lonely Sea and the Sky* (Hodder & Stoughton,

Adventurous Spirit

30s.), due out this month. This is not simply an account of great physical endurance in the course of his epic solo voyages across the Atlantic or his adventures in other parts of the world. The chapters which reviewers have found the most enthralling of all are those concerned with his recovery from what his doctors pronounced to be incurable disease, and of the part that faith, friendship and prayer played in all this. We understand that it is due in large part to Tubby Clayton himself that the author was prevailed upon to reveal these private, but precious experiences. Once more, it appears, we stand in the Founder Padre's debt as we wait for the book to appear on sale.

AT THE BEGINNING of March we were asked urgently if Toc H could help reinforce the existing Services staff of Hibbert Houses, one of the voluntary organisations operating in Cyprus. A new and badly needed recruit for B.A.O.R., Alan Richardson, was due to fly to Hanover on the 11th but he agreed readily to take the Cyprus assignment instead. The Central Executive at once gave their consent that Alan should be diverted to Nicosia and seconded to Hibbert Houses for some six months. He flew from Lympne on March 11 and within days had hired a Morris van and was learning the routes to troop outposts on both sides of the 'Green Line'. By and large, a crisp bit of co-operation between the parent Council for Voluntary Welfare Work, Hibbert Houses and ourselves. His latest contacts include French-Canadian troops who cannot read his English newspapers and books and for whom he hopes to obtain French-Canadian literature.

Action in Cyprus

FOR A GREAT MANY years now the Toc H *Mailbag Fellowship* letters of faith and encouragement have been sent out by E. J. Putland ('Putt'), of Melbourne to all parts of the world. Through these letters one of the members of the Fellowship has friends everywhere—Jack MacDonald, better known as 'Jack Mac'. A brilliant engineer as a young man, he has long been blind and paralysed, but yet from his bed he has profoundly influenced and helped many people. Some of his meditations on the Four Points of the Compass in prose and verse have now been edited and financed by friends to form a twelve-page booklet entitled *Compass Points*. We hope to get a supply of these for any who may be interested.

"Compass Points"

MOST MONTHS, under the heading "Starting Up", we gladly publish the names of places where new units are in course of formation and we also like to give the address of the local 'key man'. Last month a problem arose from the fact that the key man of Levenshulme Joint unit is a woman. 'Key woman' sounds all wrong, and 'key person' would sound—well—rather impersonal. Anyway, most of our women's Branches have chairmen, and in civic circles a feminine Mayor is usually addressed as "Mr. Mayor". One borough councillor is reported to have ended a plea for more child welfare rather charmingly with, ". . . and after all, Mr. Mayor, you yourself are a mother, sir." So, male or female, we shall refer to them all as key men and in saluting Mrs. Green of Levenshulme we hope from time to time to publish the names of other stout fellows like her.

Male or Female ?

"Mobile Action"

An Experiment in Toc H

JOHN DESSAUER

SIX MONTHS ago four young men met for supper in a café. One was a Toc H staff member, the other three had touched lightly upon Toc H, either through a schools work project or a Mark. They liked what they had seen and wished to do something more. Over the meal they arranged to go out the following Saturday and decorate an old age pensioner's room in Ealing, also to meet again for a meal in a month's time. Obviously if this was to become a regular function they must have a name; "Mobile Action" was born.

Since this small and rather insignificant beginning Mobile Action has grown, and continues to grow; the membership now stands at forty. The average age is young, around the twenty mark. As might be expected, the unit quickly became a mixed one, although it is interesting to note the boys still outnumber the girls.

The format of the unit's meetings has changed but little since the original four members met—a supper once a month, now held in 'The Hut', Tower Hill, and prepared by the girls, over which the members chat and enjoy themselves, while making plans for the next month's jobs. The reason for a monthly supper is to be found when you realise that many of those who attend are full or part-time students and heavily committed with studies, making more frequent evening meetings an impossibility.

As the membership has grown so has the amount of service performed. Jobs have ranged all over London, hence the word Mobile, and all meet a real and positive

need, hence the word Action. The type of work involved is varied, and has included the decorating of old age pensioners' rooms in Paddington; the clearing of a church bomb-site in Victoria; the moving of furniture from Twickenham to a Mission in Cable Street; the renovation and manning of a soup kitchen in Stepney; and the organising and presentation of a Christmas party for sixty old folk. Future plans include a trip to Brighton for backward children.

John Dessauer.

"Mobile Action" members tearing off a few strips.

If success can be measured in numbers then Mobile Action can be said to have succeeded. The very pressure of ¶ the numbers involved means that more units must be opened shortly elsewhere in London, where of course there is a real need for them.

Numbers alone do not make a success; we must ask ourselves what is it in Mobile Action that attracts these young people? The answer is simple: Toc H. For Mobile Action is far more than a mere service unit; it embodies the fundamentals upon which Toc H is built. It has however,

taken these fundamentals and torn from them the traditions and habits which have accumulated over fifty years, traditions and habits with little appeal to many of the young of today. To these youngsters the basic ideas of Toc H as seen through Mobile Action now appear as bright, as new and as worthwhile, as they appeared to the original members of Toc H half a century ago.

Mobile Action has shown its members that Christianity can be practised in a Paddington slum as well as in a Church. It has taught them to look at the community around them and to think and act on what they see. It has taught them that people do count.

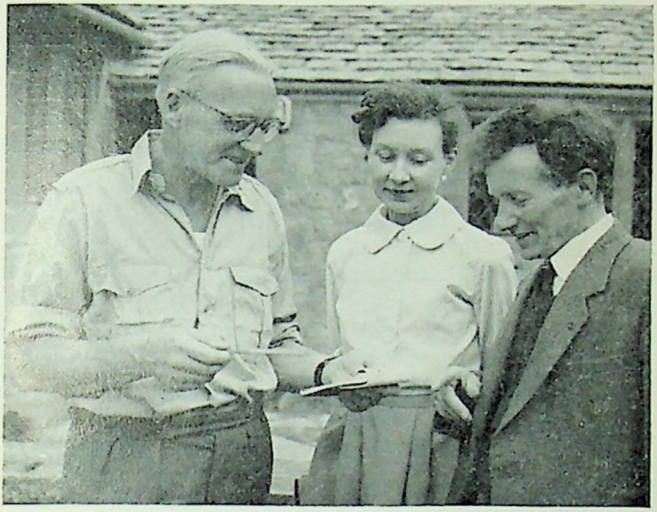
Tubby put his finger on the idea behind Mobile Action a number of years ago when he said "You need not bother about getting young men into Toc H. But sweat blood to get Toc H into young men!"

Ambassador at Large

AT THE END of this month Alec Churcher will be leaving the staff, two years short of retirement age, to be concerned with Messrs. Musgrove and Watson Ltd. in organising parties of schoolboys from South and Central Africa coming to Europe as part of their education.

In his thirty-five years on the staff Alec has been a man of many parts, and few have travelled farther in the service of Toc H. Beginning as one of the London Areas secretaries, he did a spell pre-war as Dominion Secretary in New Zealand and at one time during the war he worked in Iceland in our Club at Reykjavik.

When our peacetime work was resumed he became Headquarters Youth Service Secretary and travelled the country, steadily rebuilding our links with more than two hundred affiliated schools. This was to prove the foundation for all the new ideas on youth work which engage us at the present time.



Sunday Mercury, Birmingham.

Alec Churcher with the late Bill Atkins, first Warden of Dor Knap, and Winifred Atkins.

In 1948 he paid an extended visit to India and Pakistan, doing much to confirm the membership there during the post-independence period, and in 1958 he did a tour of Toc H in South and Central Africa. It was upon his return at the end of the year that he was appointed Secretary for Service and Training, with special responsibility for developing Dor Knap as our first Training Centre. Of all the many services that Alec has rendered Toc H perhaps the firm establishment of Dor Knap as a centre of continuous imaginative training will rank the highest and the most decisive.

Poet and speaker, writer of such standard textbooks as *The Second Mile* for Jobmasters and *Stirring the Mixture* for Branch officers, and joint Editor of the *New Forum* for seven years, Alec is indeed a man of many parts. His interest in Boys' Clubs has been continuous and he was one of the founders, with Stuart Greenacre and Austen Williams, of the P.M. Boys' Club.

Alec will be working for the greater part of the year in that part of Africa which he holds in special affection, and as he travels between here and there he will undoubtedly have great opportunity to be Toc H ambassador at large. And with him will go the blessings and thanks of Toc H members from practically every part of the world.

J. C.

Account Rendered

RODNEY FANTHORPE

In December last year the Worksop Branch held its annual dinner with the Mayor and Mayoress and a large number of guests present. The Branch Chairman, Rodney Fanthorpe, is a young man in his twenties and his address on that occasion contains a message for the whole family of Toc H.

IF IT IS A TIME of excitement and endeavour for this Movement it is no less a time of excitement and endeavour for this Branch. In a few short months Toc H will have arrived at the fiftieth year of its existence.

In that year we and our neighbouring Branches in Scarsdale District, together with our companion Districts in Notts. and Derby Area, and indeed the whole world-wide Movement, will be embarking on projects and activities in celebration of our Golden Jubilee.

We in Worksop Branch can look back on the past year and on other years, at jobs done, at work for old folk, for ill folk, for cripples, for lepers and for children, and at work done with other people, other organisations. Some jobs we look back on with satisfaction and pride. Others we look back on with less satisfaction and less pride.

These jobs will continue, for they are like pieces of marble, one bright and colourful, another of drearier and more dismal hue. Yet when pieced together, this patchwork—this colour and variety—combines to form the mosaic of Toc H. Toc H's task in the months ahead is there in its very name, for all who care to look.

In the summer of 1963 a book was published—*To Conquer Hate*, by Tubby Clayton. Its title, as you can see, is a play on the name of Toc H—To Conquer Hate. This is what we have striven to do; this is what we strive to do; this is what we will continue to strive to do.

It has been said that without some goal and some effort to reach it, no man can live. If you remember nothing else of what has gone on here tonight, if you remember nothing else about Toc H, remember this—our goal in Toc H—To Conquer Hate.

I would like to read to you a letter from Tubby, which appears in this book. It begins in characteristic style:

My Dear Head Gardeners,

I would rather hear your own reports than burden you with mine.

I offered to resign Toc H at sixty, but one or two of you persuaded me that I could still be useful.

So I am here, still here.

You would report that, despite the weeds and wireworms and twitch grass underground, the garden stands.

You are short of labourers and of gardener's boys, so the prize pumpkin will not be this year.

But next year you have hopes and high ambitions, if only you can get some of that phosphate and leaf mould and pig-manure.

The garden is still there, and the old barrow and the old spade.

God bless you in your labours!

Bridgehead House

R. A. JACK

West Midlands Area Chairman

THIS PROJECT was initiated in 1948 by a group of six Toc H members in Birmingham under the Chairmanship of John Callf, then Area Secretary, West Midlands. Other organisations were called upon as the project developed and with the help of Rotary, Round Table and Rover Scouts, among others, and a number of most valuable lady helpers, the House at 113 Gough Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham was opened in 1956. Since that date well over one hundred boys from broken or unsatisfactory homes have passed through the House, their stay varying from weeks to several years. Today some sixteen young men are in residence.

The Bridgehead Association aims to provide something more than mere accommodation for the boy who is without the advantages of a proper home. Equipment is of a high standard and care is taken to see that the food is adequate and rules at a minimum. Also the boy's character, interests, personal problems and his job are considered. Each boy contributes under a sliding scale which provides for pocket money, personal savings, clothing and fares, before any consideration is given to what is then available for maintenance. Thus each boy receives that financial support which any good parent provides for his family. Often for the first time in his life a boy finds security and someone who takes an interest in him.

Administrative work is done voluntarily, supported by Committees whose members are drawn from a very wide field. Much of the success of such a venture rests on the Wardens, and Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hallam have succeeded in creating a real family atmosphere. Mr. Hallam has a

particular talent for understanding the difficulties of the younger residents, who often come to the House from circumstances which create a very disturbed and unsettled outlook. Soon they are involved in the 'family', in weekend camps (for which equipment is provided), in adventure courses or in qualifying for the two Outward Bound Bursaries now available. Perhaps the greatest tribute to this work is that some of the residents are now running a Boys' Club in one of the 'problem' suburbs of Birmingham, under the leadership of the Warden.

In the dining-room.

It would need far more than the limited space available to tell the stories behind many of our young friends, but it is gratifying to record that many have developed into responsible young citizens. Just a few stories will, however, illustrate the work being done. There was the boy admitted from an E.S.N. School at sixteen, father unknown and a bad home background. Aggressive, untidy and difficult, he took time to settle down, hindered by disturbing influences from his home. When he left the House several years later he was one of the leaders, self reliant, well dressed and holding a good job. Now a frequent visitor, he is a fine example to those who follow.

Another sixteen-year-old reached us through the Welfare Officer, having arrived in Birmingham seeking a job while on probation for a petty offence. His cheerful disposition fitted in well and we were able to see him through his early difficulties. He stayed on to marry from the House, with the Warden's daughter as bridesmaid, and, happily married with a responsible job, he is a most regular visitor.

In the beginning we chose the title 'Bridgehead' because in wartime parlance it signified a secure landing place after, maybe, a rough passage—a place where troops could consolidate and build up before pressing on. We think Bridgehead House lives up to its name.

¶ A year ago the Association launched an appeal for £10,000 to equip a second House and over a quarter of this sum is now in hand.

And now . . . Sheldon House !

CONVINCED of the need for a home in Birmingham for young girls from fifteen to eighteen, similar to the Bridgehead House for boys, the West Midlands Area of Toc H Women's Association set about a detailed investigation. Hard work by the local membership has resulted in the formation of an enthusiastic Committee under the Patronage of the Lady Mayoress; the whole of the preliminary planning has been marked by the willing co-operation of various statutory and voluntary bodies interested in the welfare of girls, by the Press and by Toc H men.

This proposed project is the outcome of a decision of Women's Association Central Council in their 40th Birthday Year to make a practical thankoffering and to launch some new work for others. A suitable property, which will be called Sheldon House, is being sought and an Appeal launched.

M.F.

On Ceremony

1.—The Note of Emotion

JOHN CALLF

This year's Annual Report to the Central Council refers to current thinking about the possible revision of our Toc H ceremonies. A short series of articles will raise some of the basic questions involved.

Toc H was founded in an atmosphere of deepest emotion. It could not possibly have been otherwise. The men who came back from Talbot House had much to remember and were rightly determined not to forget it. Thus as the Movement began to take shape in their hands it was natural that the note of their emotion should run pretty strongly through it. But here, perhaps, we should distinguish between emotionalism, which is a love of feeling for its own sake, and true emotion which involves not only deep feeling but clear thought, and invariably issues in positive action.

Emotion is a two-way business. Thus, for example, a great composer, under the press of some great emotion, can set it down on paper in the form of music. If he has done his work well that music, properly played, can evoke in later generations of listeners something of the same emotion which inspired the composer. For some people it may simply express incomparably well something they already knew they felt. In others it may induce feelings they never knew they had. Souza, the great American composer of marches, said that a good marching tune should make a man with a wooden leg want to march. His own compositions stood the test well. He, who wrote with a march in his mind, made marching men march better and caused men who had no thought of marching to start tapping their feet.

The question before Toc H is whether, as now presented, it is evoking the right response in men who are meeting it for the first time. It is important that the emotional appeal should be a right one and not a wrong one; nor an artificial one leading to insincerity. As early as 1927 Peter Monie wrote "we must not be afraid of continuing to 'strike the note of emotion', a note which Toc H undoubtedly struck when it began. But we must see to it that we strike the right note." Moods and emotions do change from one generation to another, like taste in art, music, poetry or architecture. So what may have been emotionally appropriate for one generation may not necessarily hold good for another.

The quality of emotion in Toc H is crystallised most of all in its ceremonies of Light and Initiation. Since we are charged to 'Think Fairly', let us try to think both fairly and deeply as to whether the present ceremonies do strike the right note of emotion for the present and future generations so far as we can claim to see.

Some Questions

The questions set out below are sometimes posed with comment, sometimes without, but all of them are meant to be chewed over at Branch meetings. In some cases it may be useful to bring in an expert or critic from outside to broaden the discussion.

One note of caution. Beware lest all your thinking be conditioned by two false conclusions:

"We like things as they are". That is no answer at all unless you have honestly gone right into the whole subject. One can get used to anything; one can get used to a wooden leg. Remember that what you like, because you have got used to it, may be keeping others out because they don't like it and have no wish to get used to it.

"The older generation of members wouldn't like a change". Since there will always be an older generation of

members that implies there could never be any change at any time.

1. *Is there any place for emotion in Toc H?*

Emotion is the way we express our attitude to everyday things and our response to a variety of situations. Consider, for example, the elements of emotion in:

(a) A church service (ask the padre about this). The purpose of music, architecture, colour, symbols, etc.

(b) Ordinary home life.

2. *What are the aids to emotion in Toc H?*

The Symbol—the Lamp. We owe the Lamp as the symbol of Toc H to the inspiration of Barclay Baron and Tubby.

Think of the symbols of other societies.

Does Toc H need a symbol at all? If we do need a symbol, could any other symbol express more fitly what Toc H stands for? A fishing rod, for example (for are we not bidden to be fishers of men?). Have an honest try!

Inspired Symbol

Those of us who feel that the Lamp is an inspired symbol for Toc H would advance the following reasons in favour:—

(a) The lamp and light are charged with Christian symbolism. The New Testament is full of illustrations using light. (b) This particular design of lamp is a reminder of the days of heroic Christianity in the Roman catacombs. (c) We are reminded that all the darkness in the world cannot put out one tiny flame. (d) Light is a transmissible thing; thus we say, "One Lamp can light a thousand nor yet grow less, so nobleness enkindleth nobleness." (e) Light is a universally known symbol. It conveys great meaning to us and to an Indian, or a Chinese, or an Eskimo. (f) It is timeless; i.e. it does not date.

Can you think of any more arguments in favour of the Lamp? Any against?

FAR CRY

-overseas notes

Contributed by GEOFF MARTIN

Bengal Exodus

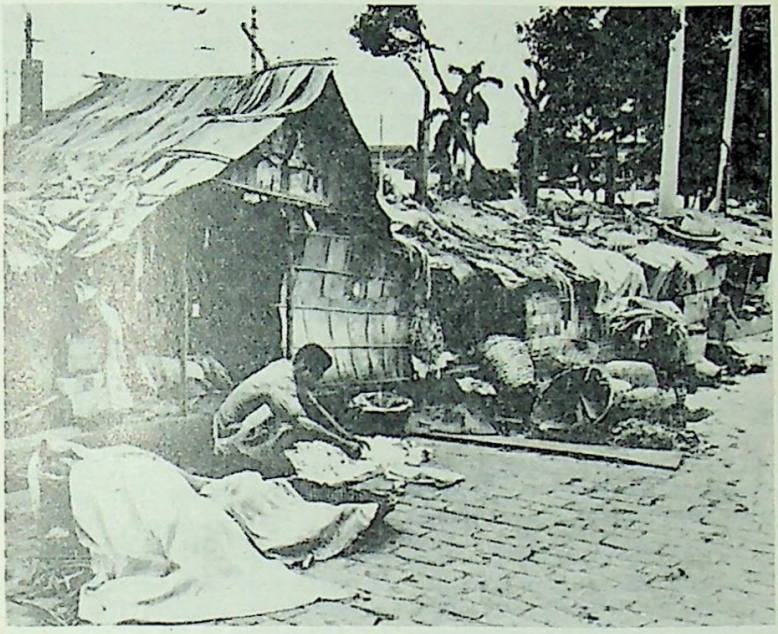
Frank Field's work for the Bengal Refugee Service and the World Council of Churches is bearing fruit, and a special article in *The Times* of March 16 was full of praise for what has been achieved. The very bad Hindu-Muslim riots in Calcutta in January caused great dislocation to ordinary resettlement work and at one time the Bengal Refugee Service was helping to care for thirty thousand Muslim refugees.

After weeks of bureaucratic delays, and helped by occasional pressure tactics, Frank eventually got the go-ahead to begin removing his refugees from Sealdah to the new settlement site. At the beginning of March he wrote:

As you receive this one-quarter of the refugees will have been removed from Sealdah and installed in tents on the three sites. And I am thankful to be able to say that not only have there been no incidents whatever, but that everything goes off like clockwork and I don't really need to be on the station at all!

I was very lucky in that the first site was an ideal one with fruit trees and a fish pond, and the people loved it. I took an advance guard of fourteen families first and, of course, word quickly came back; we now have as many as fifty sightseers on every train! The refugee committee travel with every move and are a great source of strength also.

We have it down to a fine art now; the people are issued with their movement cards and given a TB examination a few days before the move. Then on the afternoon they start quietly to dismantle their shacks and fold up. This goes on till around 9 p.m. or so, when they start trotting off with headloads to the station. I don't know what would happen if I tried to change the platform now (it would be convenient to do so at times) because they all automatically go off to the same one every time and settle down quietly with all their belongings till the train comes in at midnight.



The Times.

Refugee shacks, Sealdah.

Then they get aboard in a very orderly manner (for an Indian crowd remarkably so) and by about half past twelve we can give the green light and sail away. The area vacated is immediately cleaned off and hosed down after all the rubbish and brickbats have been removed, and then patrolled or sealed against fresh infiltration.

We arrive at the new station, all floodlit for the occasion and debark, being welcomed by our social section who have tea for the adults and hot milk for the kids on the go for several hours. They are assisted by volunteers from some of our other colonies and then just before first light they pack up and depart to the site. We start to move off at 6 a.m. and breakfast is supplied as the trucks arrive.

Before midday everyone is settled in and before nightfall there has been a ration issue. In fact the whole thing is more like an

outing. Heaven help us the first night that there is a storm and we all get drowned on the platform!

But so far I am vastly pleased with it all—after all the dire predictions from old hands that it couldn't be done—and on the first site, where we went off like a rocket, there are houses already up to roof level! The Director took the American Consul and Ford Foundation folks out last week and they were greatly impressed, not only with the progress, but because we have the folks on piece work and they were working hard long before they saw the visitors coming!

Must close now, with luck I can get an early night and, boy, am I behind on sleep! After Monday night's move I plan to sleep for two days, as we have a couple of weeks before the next move to let me consolidate things. So far no serious mistakes and no little ones repeated, that's the main thing.

'Doc' Davison of Westfort

Members of Toc H in Britain may be unfamiliar with the name 'Doc' Davison, but a great many will know of the long Toc H connection with the Westfort Leper Institution near Pretoria. We are therefore glad to reproduce from *The Compass* this note of gratitude on his retirement:

On December 12 a small party, representative of Toc H and the Women's Association, visited Westfort to bid farewell to an old friend on the eve of his retirement.

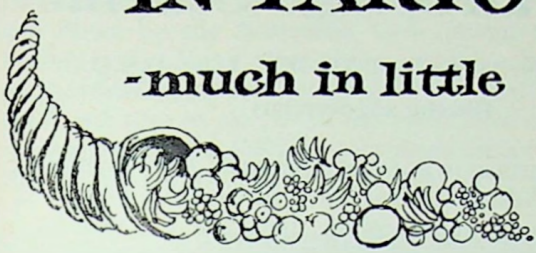
Dr. A. R. Davison ('Doc' to every member of the Westfort visiting teams, old and new), for the past twenty-five years Medical Superintendent of the Westfort Institution, is a world recognised authority on leprosy. He has devoted the whole of his working life to the study, treatment and cure of this terrible disease. It was during his regime that the miracle of transformation took place when the sulphone drugs were introduced. This treatment changed Westfort from a place of desolation to a place of wonderful, glorious hope and promise. And a great debt is owed to him for the part he played in the development of this cure.

For this he will surely be long remembered. But by his patients he will be remembered, too, for his love, his compassion, his constant concern for their welfare; for his unfeigned rejoicing when success came and discharge of a patient was possible.

For the members of the Westfort visiting teams there is one memory they will surely cherish above all the wonderful memories of Westfort—the memory of the hospitality of the house on top of the hill; and above all, the royal occasions on the day of the annual Toc H Christmas party when Mrs. Davison entertained them to lunch.

MULTUM IN PARVO

-much in little



⁂ WITH DEEP REGRET we report the death on April 5 of Lt. Col. W. R. ELLIOT, M.C. ('Tosher') Hon. Schools Secretary. An appreciation will appear in the June JOURNAL.

⁂ KENNETH PRIDEAUX-BRUNE has been appointed acting Schools Secretary.

⁂ CYRIL CATTELL, General Secretary, will take over much of the responsibility for Training when, as notified in the March issue, ALEC CHURCHER leaves the staff at the end of this month.

⁂ THE CENTRAL COUNCIL meeting in April will be fully reported in next month's issue. Branches should nominate their candidates for election as Central Councillors for 1964-66 by June 8.

⁂ SERVICES CLUBS. Members interested in the possibility of future Club work in Germany or Overseas should get in touch with the Services Secretary at Headquarters.

⁂ THE REV. CLIFFORD POLLARD, Kent and Sussex Area Padre since 1960, leaves the staff this month to become Rector of Mersham, Kent. Our good wishes go with him and his family; we hope to maintain regular contact.

⁂ KEN ROGERS is now to be known as Appeals Director, with increased responsibility for outside appeals work.

⁂ ARTHUR RICHARD NOBLE joined the Headquarters staff in March as Builders' Secretary and Assistant Accountant.

⁂ A WINANT VOLUNTEER GROUP will be working in Birmingham this year for the first time. Other groups will be working in Bristol, Liverpool, London and Manchester. After the usual 'orientation conference' in Iona these young Americans are expected to be at their places of work by June 25.

The Fairbridge Scheme

MAJ. GEN. D. C. HAWTHORN, C.B., D.S.O.
Director and Secretary

THE MANY ARTICLES in popular magazines and newspapers on life in Australia today must surely have convinced people of the vast opportunities that exist for men and women in this great and quickly developing country.

As early as 1909 the Founder of the Fairbridge Society, Kingsley Fairbridge, could foresee the remarkable prospects that Australia offered the men women and children of Britain and in company with equally far-sighted friends he created an organisation for the purpose of bringing the rich farmlands of Australia within the reach of the right kind of emigrant from this country. It was from the immense army of young underprivileged humanity—the orphans, the unwanted, the illegitimate children, the children from the slums and those from homes with ghastly background histories, that the Society drew its first recruits to fill the Farm Schools in Australia, new recruits for a fresh start in life and life with a real future.

Since then inevitable and much needed changes have taken place in the social structure of Britain, but it is perhaps somewhat unfortunate that fewer children are now allowed to grasp the golden opportunity that awaits them overseas.

New schemes have been introduced from time to time: for instance, there is the 'one parent' scheme which at this moment is being expanded and which could well be the answer to the problems of someone known to the reader of this article. It is devised to help widows, widowers, divorcees, unmarried mothers and others who have the legal care of their children and who wish to start afresh and to give their

children every chance of a happy, healthy, worthwhile life. To these people the Fairbridge Society is always willing to offer a friendly hand to overcome the problems of emigration and to help them once they arrive in Australia. For the potential emigrant who can comply with the requirements laid down by the Australian Government authorities the Society will, among other things, readily advise the parent on the initial procedure for emigration, provide in Australia, *until such time as the parent has established a home and can resume care of the children*, complete care and attention for the children from two years of age up to school leaving.

Some of the houses at the Farm School, Molong, N.S.W.

It will also, in respect of Western Australia and Tasmania, offer the necessary nomination required by every emigrant; give assistance in finding the parent appropriate employment; act as counsellor and friend from the moment of arrival; and to boys who wish to take up farming as a career, offer them a sound training. The Society will also assist in finding suitable employment for those children who may still be in the care of Fairbridge upon reaching school-leaving age.

The advantages in accepting the help of Fairbridge are many, but perhaps the most important is that the parent, upon arrival in Australia, can wholeheartedly attend to the task of setting up the new home and remain content in the knowledge that the children are being well cared for by Fairbridge. There are some people who criticise the temporary separation that occurs between parent and child, but the separation is far less than that experienced if a child attends a normal boarding school in this country. Every effort is made to enable the parent to visit the children at regular intervals and, in turn, the children can—if suitable accommodation is available—spend their holidays with the parents. In any case this new life is so exciting with so much to do and see that the time spent apart simply flies.

This 'one parent' plan for emigration is but one of several successful schemes operated by the Fairbridge Society of Creagh House, 38 Holland Villas Road, London, W.14. The members of the Society firmly believe that this voluntary service not only helps many hundreds of people towards future happiness, but is also making a definite contribution to the prosperity of these islands, to the friendly relationship within the Commonwealth and, it is hoped, to the peace of the world as a whole.

Wardens Wanted

A resident couple — Toc H preferred — to be Wardens of Sheldon House for Girls, Birmingham, taking twelve girls between the ages of fifteen to eighteen when fully operational, though it will begin with about six girls. The wife would be Matron in charge, at a salary of £500-£700 per annum, according to age and experience. The husband would follow his own career, but in return for board would help with the fires, garden, etc. Anyone interested should write as soon as possible to:—

Miss Jean Perry 143, Westminster Road, Birmingham 20.

"L. G. L."

BRIAN DICKSON

I NEVER CEASE to thank God for the friends I have met through Toc H over thirty-five years and the fun I have had with men in "doing things for Christ's sake that would not else be done". One of the best of those friends died in Heatherwood Hospital last December at the age of eighty.

Lewis George Lewis left school at the age of twelve and started reading. A hard-working gardener all his life, most of his reading was done in the 'small hours', and through the last war by the light of an ancient oil lamp in his little potting-shed attached to the greenhouse, his 'den' as he called it. Having an almost photographic memory, a great appreciation of beauty in all its forms, and an intense interest in everything that came his way, he could hold his own in intelligent conversation with anyone. Cathedrals and church architecture, tomato-growing (by the acre) under glass, exploration and mountaineering, poetry and the development of modern aircraft, he could hold forth on them all.

Lewis and I were first drawn together by a common interest in mountains and in the Antarctic saga. In a Toc H talk over thirty years ago I mentioned George Seaver's book *Edward Wilson of the Antarctic*, a copy of which had just been given to each of our Toc H Marks by Mrs. Reginald Smith, the widow of Captain Scott's publisher. This chance remark brought us together as we both felt that 'Bill' Wilson came very near to being a saint. For some years after we exchanged our favourite quotations from Wilson's diary, e.g. "This is the most fascinating ideal I think I ever imagined, to become entirely careless of your own

soul or body in looking after the welfare of others", and "All is well", the closing words of his last letter to his wife, written on March 21 or 22, 1912. Lewis especially liked also Mrs. Wilson's comment on wayside flowers—"God's little exquisite extravagances".

His zest for life was amazing and infectious. A few years back I took him to a lecture at the Alpine Club which thrilled him. On the way home he stopped me in the middle of Piccadilly at ten o'clock at night and said, "Brian, have you ever realised what a wonderful thing appetite is? I don't mean appetite just for food and drink. I mean appetite for all the varied interests of life itself. And if you told me tomorrow that I had 2,000 years to live, I wouldn't have time to do all the things I want to do before I die!"

What a wonderful philosophy for a working gardener, and indeed for anyone! And doesn't Toc H exist to give us just that same zest for life, because we have found its meaning and purpose in Christ and the Christian faith, and in the whole wonder of God's creation, as Lewis certainly had?

Recently his family asked me to go through his books. I am amazed and humbled at the width and depth of his reading, at the range of it and at the range of the newspaper cuttings that he had amassed over the years. All the passages that most impressed him are heavily underlined in red, and this includes his Bible, Old Testament as well as New! Sir John Hunt's book on Everest is autographed by the author, whom Lewis had met at my house, and I remember Hunt telling me afterwards that the little man (5 ft. 2 ins. in his socks!) seemed to know as much about the Himalayas and his route up Everest as he did!

Now Lewis has gone on ahead and so too have Edward Wilson and John Kennedy. But the inspiration of their personality and their example is still with us and "death is life's true beginning, not its end".

Jumble Blues

TONY DEBONNAIRE

Tony, a young member of Welwyn Garden City Branch, is blind and almost totally deaf.

Let us hail the Spring again
When the flowers have their bash,
Time of sun and warmer rain
Sung by Tom and Ogden Nash.
Birds go tweet and cows go moo,
Shepherds pipe on hill and dale.
But it has its troubles too,
Like the annual jumble sale.

Organizing charities
Hold assorted sales and fairs.
Spring for them ideal is,
So this heyday's also theirs.
Then as you prepare to lie
Basking in the springtime calm,
Wait for the familiar cry,
"Have you any jumble, ma'am?"

Do not rush to answer back,
"Yes, and I'm still wearing it."
Wait before you make that crack,
Stop and ponder for a bit.
For those busy folk who seem
So intent on pestering you,
They are in a flap extreme,
For they have a lot to do.

First the date and then the hall
With the settling of the rent.
Who shall work each separate stall?
That's a cause of argument.
Placing everything on show
Marked with the appropriate price,
I expect they murmur, "Oh,
I could never do this twice."

Comes at last the longed-for day,
So exciting, though so brief.
Then, equipment put away,
Sigh with well-deserved relief,
For the summer holiday
Promises a rest from pain
Months before we need to say
Let us hail the Spring again.

Youth without Tears

JOHN MITCHELL

It is a brave man who sets himself the task of surveying a subject such as this in the course of one brief *booklet (itself a transcript of an address given to the Methodist Conference in July 1963). Fortunately, Donald Hughes recognises this fact, and admits that this is but a brief outline of the problems of young people today.

For a brief outline, however, this is a tour-de-force! In eighteen pages, the author paints an invaluable picture of the needs of the young; a picture so clear and so simple that it is as a breath of fresh air to the muddled amateur. In simple English, the author states those things which, in his view, are needful to the attainment of maturity. He then reviews each of these needs against the present background and presents, with complete lack of hysteria, the most blunt challenge one could wish for—that no society is entitled to worship Mammon and expect, at the same time, Christian behaviour from its young. This would seem to be a challenge which is very much in line with the challenge Toc H seeks to present, and in fact this is a book that all Toc H people would be well advised to read. For any Branches tackling Keynote Project No. 6—'Helping Youth Organisations'—it is a 'must'.

This book says nothing new; it gives no easy solutions. Its value and importance lie in the fact that it is a sensible, calm appraisal of the present situation by a transparently sincere Christian and, on his own admission, a 'fallible' man.

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* *The Changing Background of Youth Today*, by Donald Hughes, M.A., Headmaster of Rydal School. The Epworth Press, 2s.

A Mark without Tradition?

TONY LEE

The Honorary Warden of Prideaux House, Hackney, gives a frank and personal assessment of the progress of the new Mark.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE today to have a Mark without tradition. The very expression has, over the years, become a contradiction in terms. The new Mark III has tradition built into its very foundations: it stands on the site of the former Mark III, Punch House; it was built by means of donations given by members and friends of Toc H who had faith in the traditions of the Marks and in the know-how of the Movement to make the unique community which is a Mark. It bears the name of a man who for many years has served the cause of the Marks, and whose friendship with Tubby goes back to the days of the Old House.

Nevertheless, it was a new Mark, and traditions cannot be built into men who are thrown together, as the first Marksmen were thrown together, without any knowledge of the Movement or of the idea of a Mark. That it has proved difficult to put over the idea of a Mark is perhaps evidenced by the fact that although the house has been open for two years, only two men have had a sufficient vision of the idea of a Mark to recognise it as an expression of Toc H and from there to become members of Toc H.

On the other hand, encouragement may be taken from the fact that much of the lifeblood of the new Mark III has been provided from the very beginning either by some who were already members or by men with experience of living in other Marks, and from the fact that there is a growing realisation amongst the Marksmen of the existence

of a Movement which has boundaries extended far beyond the walls of the house. In every sense the future of Prideaux House is today in the hands of men who are either Toc H members or who are so clearly aware of the value of fellowship, service and fairmindedness that they can be regarded as moving towards the maturity of outlook which is a prerequisite to an application for membership.

Whether the Movement decides to build another Mark (and why not one every five years?) may depend to some extent on the success of Mark III. So far, the life of the house has not been without its failures. Getting the message across has proved an almost intractable problem. Much of the early planning of the house was perhaps rather too short-term. It was a great pity, for instance, that the first two Wardens held office for comparatively brief periods of time. The architects are sometimes blamed for designing a house which in fact tends to keep men apart rather than to bring them together. The sleeping accommodation, for instance, is in three blocks so separated from each other and from the social rooms of the house that a man can live in the house for a week without realising that another man has left, or a new man moved in (unless he reads the notice board!). There is not a room in the house, apart from the dining room, in which half the men of the house can sit down together at the same time. These physical problems are being overcome by the sheer will power of the men to lead a social life together.

A Mark is in essence a Toc H job. It is a job done *by* members, but not necessarily *for* members. In the formation of a new Mark, therefore, a great deal of Toc H energy and goodwill are a prime necessity, and a great deal of that goodwill and energy are still much needed in and towards Mark III without expectation of immediate returns in the shape of increased membership or jobs.

On the other hand, a Mark is given by the Movement to the men, and with the gift of the house goes the gift of freedom. Without freedom, a Mark can never be a full

expression of Toc H, and without freedom, a spirit of voluntary service can never flourish. In Prideaux House, every man is free to offer fellowship or deny it, to serve or to be served. Sometimes that freedom is abused, often hopes and potentialities are not realised, always we are conscious of a failure to build: but today Mark III is in free control of its destiny.

To turn to more practical details, men have recently been forming themselves into teams to work in the garden and do jobs outside the house. Major works of improvement in the garden are planned and the beginnings of a regular and co-ordinated social life are apparent. It is hoped to play a part in the Toc H Jubilee and a film of the life of the house is contemplated. There is a Branch structure which is immersed in, though by no means submerged by, the life of the house.

The freedom, then, is there to be taken, and the will is there to fare forward. Soon, I think, it will be time for the Movement to say: "Let us do this thing again."

Ernie says:

Tenacity at Tiddington

RAY HALFORD

FOR SEVERAL YEARS Stratford-upon-Avon Branch had had in mind Branches of Toc H at Tiddington and Shottery (Anne Hathaway's home) which are villages within the borough, but lie on opposite sides of the centre of Stratford. However, a canvass made in 1959 was not a success because although some interest was shown, contacts were reluctant to attend meetings in Stratford.

In December 1962 one of the extension projects suggested was once again a Tiddington group. Tiddington is almost entirely residential and consists of an old village enlarged considerably by a housing estate of postwar development. The suggestion was that our Branch should arrange a suitable programme and meet alternate weeks in Stratford and Tiddington.

Despite the bad winter Harold Fleming and Peter Brooks, two of Stratford's most recently initiated members, had not been idle. They had visited many local contacts, and they were helped considerably by the Church Stewardship Campaign that both had been engaged upon in that area. At this first meeting twelve members from Stratford turned up and two newcomers from Tiddington. Two others looked in for a time. Our Branch officers talked about Toc H from their various standpoints.

In April one of the Tiddington men started attending the Stratford meetings and for the next few weeks we were

again busy canvassing contacts. Further meetings were held and a Forum held in May was successful, with some half dozen Tiddington chaps asking questions and some of our members realising how little they really knew about Toc H.

Stratford-upon-Avon Herald

Tiddington members combine with other villagers to redecorate the village hall.

During May and June meetings went on, well backed up by other Branches, and in July we did our first job together. The Tiddington lads turned out in strength and twelve housebound men and as many escorts took a car trip round the Cotswolds, visiting Dor Knap, where George and

Dorothy Atkinson made us welcome. It was a beautiful evening and few will forget the marvellous scenery from the terrace of Dor Knap.

Alas, the opening night for the Autumn programme we had planned was a bitter pill to swallow. We were fortunate in having obtained Paul Rogoff of Beds. & Herts. Area as speaker. He was to tell the meeting of the impact of Toc H on his life, and of his present work at an approved school. Only one Tiddington chap attended but the meeting went on as arranged.

The next three meetings, at fortnightly intervals, drew two, six and four Tiddington men, but from this time things began to look up. In November, the Warden of Henley-in-Arden Re-establishment Centre gave a talk on his work, and the Toc H effort there, and as a result Tiddington arranged a visit. Twelve of them descended upon the Centre and gave the residents a convivial evening, including a darts match and a singsong.

At one meeting in Stratford we initiated four Tiddington chaps and one from Stratford, and then came December 5, a highlight. First of all we initiated with the Stratford Lamp four more Tiddington members and three Henley members. This meant that during a very short period twelve names had been added to Stratford's nominal roll.

Derek Whitehead of Leamington then handed over the Rushlight on behalf of the District, and the Vicar of Alveston, Padre Burgess, padre of the group, said a few words of dedication. Thereafter the group spent almost every night redecorating the Townsend Hall, and Padre Burgess was present throughout with his collar off and sleeves rolled up.

There is no doubt that Tiddington is now on the Toc H map, and the group is now bigger and more active than its parent Branch—a fact that we are both proud and envious of. It is hoped that they will continue the good work and soon achieve Branch status.

Extra-Ordinary Branches

ERNIE WOOD

THIS TITLE seems appropriate for Branches such as the one of which I am writing, as they are extra to the ordinary conception of Toc H Branches. In reality the only way in which an Area General Members' Branch is extra-ordinary is that there is difficulty of achieving and maintaining that personal fellowship available to those able to attend a local Branch regularly.

The mixture of men within our Eastern London Area General Members' Branch is probably more varied than in any other Branch of any type. The members' means of livelihood include at least one each of the following:

Accounts Clerk	Post Office worker
Building Contractor	Probation Officer
Canon in the C. of E.	Retired men
Carpenter	Sacristan
Chiropodist	Schoolmaster
Insurance Clerk	Shop assistant
Lord Lieutenant of Essex	Transport Organiser
Manual worker	Verger
Managing Director	Welfare Organiser
Padre to Missions to Seamen	Yeoman Warder

This list makes apparent many of the reasons for inabilities to act as full members of local Branches, i.e. evening and night work and travelling to different places, entailing being away from home most evenings and nights. Others find their own, or their wives', ill health, or other domestic ties prevent commitment to regular evening meetings.

Nevertheless, our members do perform a tremendous number of Toc H 'jobs' (at least twenty-two types of

voluntary service), some common to other Branches and some out of the ordinary. Over forty out of my seventy-five fellow Branch members are known to me personally, but there are no doubt many more, and different jobs of which I am at present unaware.

Being a retired Civil Servant myself, whose wife's ill-health made him feel that he could no longer commit himself to attending a local Branch regularly, I welcomed the opportunity of becoming General Members' Branch Hon. Secretary in March 1962. Since then I have sent a newsletter on seven occasions at regular intervals. The number involved makes duplicated letters inevitable but I try to give them a personal touch. In addition I have hand-written over two hundred letters to fellow members and to Area, District and other Branch Secretaries, including an individual reply to everyone who has written to me. There is, too, the point that the great majority of annual subscriptions have to be collected through the post. Five opportunities have been seized, or created, for those of our Branch members who could manage it, to get together. Every member was sent detailed arrangements in advance for the following occasions:

Summer 1962: during the Festival week-end in London.

Winter 1962: World Chain of Light at All Hallows and at 15 and 42 Trinity Square.

Spring 1963: meeting at 15 Trinity Square, E.C.3, and All Hallows, to include General Members of all London Areas and those of Central General Branch.

Autumn 1963: our own Branch meeting at Leigh-on-Sea.

All Saints' Eve, 1963: All Hallows evening Communion Service followed by a Guest-night.

I do hope that those members who are fortunate enough to be able to join in regular fellowship at local Branch meetings will be helped to understand how many of their fellow members in General Branches continue to strive to

remain in good standing, despite the lack of that very important aspect of Branch life. To me, keeping members together is a most rewarding job and I will welcome any practical suggestions for reaching even closer unity within a General Branch.

Elder Brethren

"With proud thanksgiving . . ."

BARD.—On March 11, DAVID GERSHOM BARD, aged 89, a Sussex Area member. Elected 7.8.'30.

BURT-SMITH.—In March, DUDLEY WIMBUSH BURT-SMITH, a member of Torquay Branch. Elected 19.8.'31.

CRAGO.—In March, RICHARD BRUCE CRAGO, aged 69, a member of Cullington Branch. Elected 17.1.'61.

DENNETT.—On March 9, EDGAR JOHN DENNETT, aged 65, a member of Downend Branch. Elected 16.9.'32.

FRENCH.—On February 2, REGINALD FRENCH, aged 69, a member of Barton-on-Humber Branch. Elected 11.12.'40.

HARDING.—On February 29, NORMAN LEWIS HARDING, aged 62, a member of Hockley Branch. Elected 1941.

HEDGES.—In March, HERBERT L. HEDGES, aged 83, a member of Droitwich Branch. Elected 1.4.'38.

JENKYNS.—On March 14, VICTOR RONALD JENKYNS, aged 58, a member of Bletchley Branch. Elected 22.2.'62.

LANE.—On March 6, ALBERT LANE, aged 72, a founder member of Oldham Branch. Elected 31.5.'30.

LLOYD.—On March 9, in a car accident in West Africa, HAROLD LLOYD, aged 47, the Treasurer of Berkhamsted Branch. Elected November 1937.

LONG.—On March 6, PHILIP LONG, aged 40, a member of Fulham Branch. Elected 22.3.'63.

MCINNES.—On March 15, ROBERT RITCHIE MCINNES, aged 80, a member of Eltham Branch. Elected 1.1.'58.

PARTRIDGE.—In March, FREDERICK REGINALD PARTRIDGE, aged 76, a member of Dudley Branch. Elected 15.8.'53.

SUMMERFIELD.—On February 10, REDVERS BULLER SUMMERFIELD ('Gen'), aged 64, the Secretary of Low Hill Branch. Elected 7.3.'39.

YOUNG.—On March 10, JOHN S. M. YOUNG, a member of Marske (Joint) Branch. Elected 1.9.'27.

FROM ALL PARTS

-area news

NORTHERN LONDON

When your wife goes shopping, does she patronise the rapidly increasing number of supermarkets, or does she prefer the little shop at the corner? If the former, she will no doubt be in favour of R.P.M. (which, by the way, has stood until now for revolutions per minute, ever since the invention of the steam engine!) Anyway, ENFIELD Branch have found a use for some of those baskets the supermarkets are so fond of and if you shop there, look for an empty one. Ten have been left as an all-the-year-round invitation to people to play the part of Good Samaritans by making an extra purchase and dropping it into one of the baskets. As they are filled, free food parcels are made up for local needy residents. This is a scheme in which many organisations are joining with Toc H and it is hoped that the present number of ten baskets may be increased.

MAYNE ELSON

SOUTH WALES

A very successful Guest-night was held at CAERPHILLY in March, with Jack Harrison bringing the Botha's Hill transparencies and tape. All present were impressed by the story of Don McKenzie and this should prove a valuable introduction to our Jubilee Project. The meeting was held in the Old Folk's Centre which the Caerphilly Branch is painting and decorating, thus saving about £200 in labour costs for the committee.

Now that the Western Region office is at Bristol, the rooms in St. Mary Street are to serve as the Toc H Centre in Cardiff. Already three Women's Branches are meeting there, and we have plans for various kinds of Toc H meetings to be held there in future. Also it is hoped to have open house on Saturday mornings for members visiting Cardiff to meet friends and have a cup of coffee.

During August week BELRA will have a stand at the Welsh National Eisteddfod in Swansea which they have offered to share with Toc H. SWANSEA Branch will organise this effort and they hope that anyone with a few hours to spare will help man the stand.

GEORGE ATKINSON

EASTERN LONDON

Transport seems to be a problem with Toc H at the moment in S.E. Essex. The broadcasting van at SOUTHEND has for some while been without a garage and the result is that the valuable wireless and electrical equipment in it is being affected by damp. We feel sure the authors of *1066 and All That* would class this as a Bad Thing and it is affecting the quality of the sound recordings. This van is used to relay commentaries of Southend Carnival, the Town Show and such events as the Civic Carol Service to people in hospital. There is another coach at Southend which travelled over 5,000 miles last year conveying 859 wheelchair cases and 800 sitting cases. This one is over fifteen years old and is in urgent need of replacement. The Branch is faced with the task of raising some £3,000. The Ford Trust has given £50 but the rest will have to come from local efforts.

MAYNE ELSON

Folkestone Herald & Gazette

The local scouts join in the celebration of Cheriton's 27th birthday.

KENT

CHERITON Branch achieved its ambition recently when the Mayor of Folkestone opened its new meeting hall. Built of pre-cast concrete, it will seat 140 people and, in addition to very good 'usual offices', has a well-equipped kitchen and a separate room for Branch meetings. Named "Harvey Hall" after the famous physician who discovered the circulation of the blood, it is intended for the use of the people of Cheriton; but Thursday is reserved for the local Youth Club, formed by the Branch and already showing encouraging signs. A Building Fund of £700 has been swallowed up in this project and the Branch faces with equanimity the repayment of a hefty loan from the Borough Council.

CHARLES SCRIVENER

NORTHERN

The first Annual Area Meeting was held on March 21 and a long and interesting afternoon was held. A new Area Team was chosen and a careful look taken at problems in the Area and of future possibilities. Approval and welcome was given to the appointment of the Rev. Sydney Edmonds as Hon. Area Padre. Syd is Chaplain at Durham Prison. An effort to make friends for Toc H is being tried by NEWBIGGIN Branch. The Branch has started a Table Tennis Night, open to all-comers, on one night a week in its meeting place. Half a dozen or so are already being attracted to it and it is hoped as numbers grow to form a team to meet other Branches and organisations. Making friends is an important function of any Branch. BEDLINGTON Branch celebrated its eighteenth birthday recently. The Branch has just finished a series of lectures on Science —they must all be budding boffins in Bedlington now! One of its members, John Darling, was made Queen's Scout by Prince Philip on his recent visit to Sunderland. A rash of District Guest-nights and family gatherings has broken out. CLEVELAND, RICHMONDSHIRE, TYNESIDE and WEARSIDE are all in the throes of arranging one or the other.

LES WHEATLEY

Burton Mail & Observer

Hatton County Youth Centre members recently acted as hosts to the Derby Toc H Physically Disabled Club.

NOTTS. & DERBY

The Area has been greatly encouraged by the birth of two new units—one in the village of Granby, where more than twenty men met and unanimously agreed to 'start up', and the other at Bramcote Hills, which is a large residential area near Nottingham. This one is a Joint Unit, at present fifteen strong, and including only two with previous experience of Toc H.

It is the second Joint Unit in the Area, the other being the North Nottingham group which is now just over a year old and has a membership of well over thirty. The recently constituted TRENT

VALLEY Joint District Team shows promise of being a force for good in the Area. There is, in fact, a growing awareness of the function of District Teams and definite steps are now being taken for their 'promotion'.

Another significant fact is that already this year the number of members contributing to the Family Purse under Deeds of Covenant has been trebled. District Bursars, under the direction of the Area Stewardship Team in co-operation with the Honorary Area Treasurer, have readily assumed responsibility for pointing out the obligation of members in the matter of finance. BILL HARRIS

Croydon Times

New Addington members roll out the barrel-organ in aid of spastics.

DOR KNAP

Arriving here in early December, Dorothy and I quickly settled down to our new life. During the bad weather Ivor and I set about improving conditions inside the house with lashings of paste, paper and paint. Whenever the weather was good we got outdoors to make the most of it in ploughing and digging.

Our first real test as Wardens was a Schools weekend party, and it all went well, all enjoying themselves and the house came alive with their enthusiasm. As we stood on the terrace to watch the last car wind its way down the road, we felt that our first efforts had been successful. Other parties have been and gone, all different in their own way, leaving the house so silent after all the chatter and arguments and laughter.

Now Spring is here with nature putting on her show of snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils. The greenhouse is already full of plants for the garden, and I wonder if parties coming down in early summer might like to contribute some more plants to add to the beauty of Dor Knap.

To anyone who hasn't already booked a place in a Dor Knap party, what better time than the "Warden's Week," August 22 - 29? Please apply direct to me here. TOMMY TRINDER

Gloucester Journal

Matson Branch (Western Area) wear appropriately Western dress to entertain the old folks.

EAST ANGLIA

Young people of CLACTON-ON-SEA have shown an immediate response to the plan of the local Branch to band together all youth organisations in Clacton, besides young people not belonging to any organisation, in order to give a helping hand to the town's old folk, the handicapped and in connection with any worthwhile human need.

The inaugural meeting was attended by members from all the town's youth organisations, many teenagers and a sprinkling of older folk. At this meeting it was decided to form a youth service committee which will allot the tasks, under the guidance of the local Branch Jobmaster for the time being. It was agreed that the committee formed should include some adults, should function for six months, after which it will be left to the young people to run the service for themselves.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to ELY and GIMINGHAM who have recently been recognised as Branches. The first lighting of the Lamp entrusted to Ely took place at a meeting attended by members from as far afield as Saffron Walden, and by two intrepid travellers from Muswell Hill, the former Branch of the chairman. The new Lamp was kindled by the Divisional Chairman from a flame carefully carried from the Patron's Lamp in All Hallows by Ely members during the previous weekend. REG SMITH

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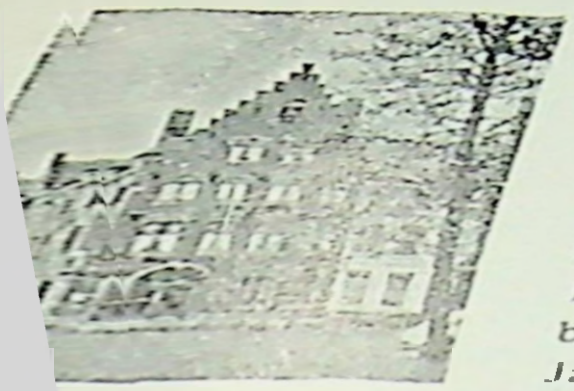

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